

BACTERIAL LEAF SPOT OF ENGLISH IVY

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English ivy, *Hedera helix* L., is a popular climbing vine with somewhat glossy, forest green leaves (2). It is subject to a bacterial disease caused by *Xanthomonas hederae* (Arnaud) Dowson. The disease is most severe under warm, humid conditions. The bacterium is spread by splashing rain or overhead irrigation water.

SYMPTOMS. Lesions begin as small circular water-soaked spots more readily visible on the undersurface of the leaves. These spots enlarge into circular to angular areas with greenish brown, water-soaked margins and reddish brown to black centers (Fig. 1). Frequently a chlorotic yellow halo surrounds the lesions (Fig. 2). In the final stages and particularly on older leaves, the water-soaked margins tend to disappear and the necrotic tissue of the lesions may crack as it becomes dry (1).

CONTROL. Keep temperature in the greenhouse from getting too high and avoid wetting the foliage as much as possible. Remove and destroy infected foliage, then spray with Agri-strep to prevent spread of the disease. Sterilize benches or beds where diseased plants have grown and use sterilized soil.

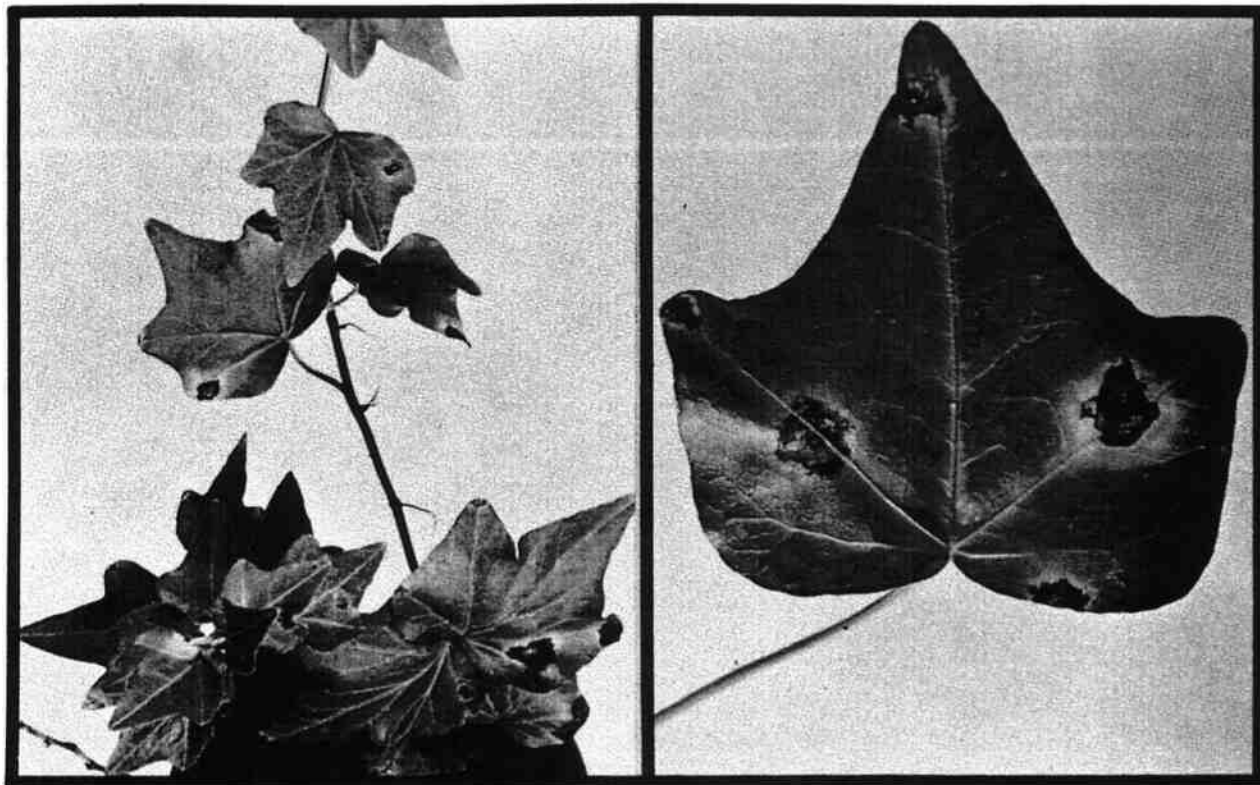


Fig. 1. Overall view of English ivy with symptoms of bacterial leaf spot.

Fig. 2. Closeup of infected leaf showing chlorotic halo around lesion.

Literature Cited

1. Dye, D. W. 1967. Bacterial spot of ivy caused by *Xanthomonas hederae* (Arnaud) Dowson. New Zealand J. of Sci. 10:481-485.
2. Graf, A. B. 1959. Exotica II. Roehrs Co., Rutherford, N. J. 1146 p.